THE LOCKED-UP MAIDEN 46P
BY HISAMU OTO
Once upon a time, there was a princess who locked herself up in the top of a little tower
And a young man set on becoming the palace artist
The reason these two, who would otherwise have no contact whatsoever, will meet
is a certain decree made by the king...
ガラ
RATTLE
ガラ
RATTLE
YOU'RE GOING TO THE KING'S CASTLE?

WHAT DO YOU DO?
RATTLE
カリ
ラ
WELL...
I'M A HUMBLE ARTIST.
RATTLE
カリ
ラ

OHO! THAT MUST MEAN YOU'RE HERE ABOUT THAT DEGREE!
RATTLE
RATTLE
ガラ
カリ
ラ
"HE WHO CAN PAINT A PORTRAIT OF THE 'LOCKED-UP MAIDEN' WILL BE MADE THE PALACE ARTIST"...!
"LOCKED-UP MAIDEN?"
THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE CALLING HER ROUND HERE.
THEY SAY SHE'S STAYED LOCKED UP AT THE TOP OF THE TOWER AND HASN'T COME OUT FOR FOUR YEARS

塔のてっぺんで起こる、
姫VS絵師のランデブー!?

46P

隠した素顔と
Her concealed face
and hidden past will now...?!
隠された過去が、いま……!?

The Locked-up Maiden 姫 音久無

(とじこもりひめ)

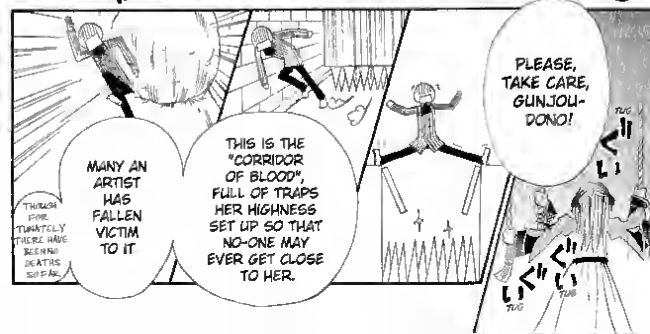
Presented by
HISAMU OTO

A NEW ARTIST
HAS COME AGAIN TODAY!
WELCOME, GUNJOU-SAMA
YOU'RE THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH ARTIST TO COME HERE.
LUCKY SEVEN
SEVENTY-SEVEN? IS IT THAT HARD TO PAINT A PORTRAIT OF THE PRINCESS?
YES, IT IS
PRINCESS TSUYUKUSA IS IN THAT TOWER OVER THERE
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY PEOPLE COME

I'LL TAKE THEM ALL DOWN!!!
THIS CORRIDOR CONNECTS DIRECTLY TO THE TOP OF THE TOWER.
I'M HOPING YOU CAN GO THROUGH THIS CORRIDOR AND PAINT HER HIGHNESS'S
? WHAT IS THIS ..?

ドスッ
ドスッ
ぐいっ
カッ

ヒュ
WHOOSH
ぐ
TUG
いっ
STAGGER
ヨロ
WHA...
ドゴォ
BOOM!


THOUGH FAR, FAMATELY THERE HAVE BEEN NO DEATHS SO FAR.
MANY AN ARTIST HAS FALLEN VICTIM TO IT
THIS IS THE "CORRIDOR OF BLOOD", FULL OF TRAPS HER HIGHNESS SET UP SO THAT NO-ONE MAY EVER GET CLOSE TO HER.
PLEASE, TAKE CARE, GUNJOU-DONO!
TUG
ぐ
いぐ
TUG
いぐ
TUG

IT'S QUITE A WORRY.
THAT'S IT? "A WORRY"?!
PANT PANT
HEHEHEH, TAKE THAT!
NOW BE GOOD AND GO HOME!
HUFF HUFF
.NO NUMBER OF LIVES WOULD EVER BE ENOUGH IN THERE.
HRM.
WHAT TO DO..
FOR GENERATIONS IN THE ROYAL FAMILY, IT HAS BEEN TRADITION TO PREPARE A PORTRAIT FOR THOSE OF AGE, SEVENTEEN.
THE PRINCESS'S BIRTHDAY IS IN ONE MONTH.. THE PAINTING WILL BE EXHIBITED AT HER COMING OF AGE CEREMONY.
IF POSSIBLE, WE'D LIKE YOU TO COMPLETE THE PAINTING BEFORE THEN.

IF YOU DO, WE WILL EMPLOY YOU AS THE PALACE ARTIST.
STARE
CAN SHE EVEN SURVIVE, LOCKED UP IN A TOWER LIKE THAT?
WHERE DOES SHE GET HER MEALS FROM?
GO AWAY!!!
BINGO!
THERE MUST BE ANOTHER ENTRANCE SOMEWHERE...
HM?
カコ
TONK
SHIFTY LOOK
PARDON ME, MISS.

LET ME TAKE THIS.
AHH, HE'S COMING!
CLOMP
カツン
CLOMP
カツン
MY NAME'S GUNJOU. I'M PAINTING THE PRINCESS'S PORTRAIT.
!!
I HAVE TO HIDE!
KNOCK KNOCK! GUNJOU DELIVERY!

HE
DON'T YOU EVEN KNOCK!?
Y-Y-Y-YOU!
HE KICKED THE DOOR DOWN!!?
IT'S AN HONOUR TO MEET YOU PRINCESS TSUYUKUSA
I'M GUNJOU AN ARTIST
GLOMP
GETA

RUSTLE
GUN... JOU?
I WAS HOPING YOU'D LET ME PAINT YOUR PORTRAIT
PLEASE, WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO TAKE THAT MASK OFF?
CHIK
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
N-N-N-NO!
I'M UGLY, AND SCARED OF MEETING PEOPLE...
BEING STARED AT WHILE YOU PAINT THE PICTURE, I...
I COULDN'T STAND IT!
CHIK
SLASH!

*ESQUISSE: A PRELIMINARY SKETCH DONE BEFORE AN OIL PAINTING

BLUSH
STARE
じっ…
TAKE THAT OFF!
SCRUNCH
RUSTLE
SPARE
B-B-B-BUT YOU'RE LOOKING AT ME
I CAN'T DRAW YOU IF I DON'T LOOK AT YOU!!!

SIGH
はー
SCEUNCH
ANYWAY
I GAVE UP PAINTING MY OWN ARTWORKS A LONG TIME A...
LOOK, I'M NOT PAINTING YOU COS I WANT TO EITHER!
I JUST WANT A POSITION WITH THE PALACE SO I CAN MAKE A DECENT LIVING.
EH?
.....
WHAT'S WITH HIM!? HE'S SO SCARY AND RUDE!!!!
WH-
バタン
SLAM
...I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW!

...OHO, SO GUNSOU DONO HAS ALREADY FOUND THE SECRET ENTRANCE.
BUT MANY HAVE MADE IT THAT FAR.
THE REAL PROBLEM STARTS HERE!
The next morning
ガン
BANG
DAMN THAT MOODY MAIDEN !!!!
...

YOUR HIGHNESS! I'VE TIED IT ON.
YOU MAY LIFT IT NOW
BINGO AGAIN!
GRAB
WE MEET AGAIN
G-GUNJOU-SAMA!!
GOOD MORNING, YOUR HIGHNESS. FINE WEATHER WE'RE HAVING
Y-Y-YES IT IS! COULD YOU LET GO, PLEASE?

HELLO, OTO KAZUKI

Another manga with a mask in it...I'm sorry It's all I d
Oh dear

While I was out, up inside drawing this, it became spring. I'm going to see the cherry blossoms soon! I can't wait! But by the time this Zaitana comes out, the cherry blossoms will probably all have fallen... They're so short-lived.

My editor, everyone at the editorial department, my friends and family who support me and everyone who so kindly reads this... Thank you!

GUNJOU TOOK MY LUNCH TOO... SIGH...
KNOCK KNOCK
YOUR HIGHNESS
I'M LEAVING YOUR DINNER HERE.
CLICK
TAP
TAP

GOOD EVENING, YOUR HIGHNESS.
!!
GRUDGE
ギィ…
SNAP
ベキ
SNAP
ベキ
PLUNGE
ドボーン
SWOOSH
ずぼぼぼ
I...
I PLAN ON... LAYING LOW...
HERE...
RUSTLE
ガサッ
HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON MOPING AROUND,
BEING A BOTHER TO EVERYONE AROUND YOU?!

OH?
YOU DON'T THINK YOU'RE BEING A BOTHER TO ANYONE?
THE MAID WOULDN'T HAVE TO COME ALL THE WAY OUT TO THIS TOWER TO BRING YOU FOOD EVERY DAY.
IF YOU'D JUST LET SOMEONE PAINT YOU, THE OLD MAN WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY.
IF YOU WEREN'T LOCKED UP IN HERE,
IF YOU THINK YOU'RE LIVING ALONE,
THEN YOU'RE BEING TERRIBLY ARROGANT.

OR RATHER, I'D BEEN TRYING NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT
I'D NEVER EVEN IMAGINED I WAS BEING A BOTHER TO PEOPLE BY BEING HERE
WHAT HE SAID WAS SO TRUE, I COULDN'T SPEAK
SLAM
バタン
WHAT DIRTY SELF DEFENSE
I CAN'T SLEEP..
I'LL GO LOOK AT THE BLUE PAINTING IN THE BLUE CORRIDOR TO CALM DOWN.
THERE'S SOMEONE IN FRONT OF THE PAINTING..

ZOOM
はぱっ
YOUR HIGHNESS?
COUGH COUGH
I THINK YOU HAVE THE WRONG PERSON?
RUSTLE RUSTLE
ガサガサ
・・・
・・

SORRY ABOUT BEFORE I WAS OUT OF LINE
HH...
I JUST CAME TO SEE THAT PAINTING.
AHA!! SO YOU LIKE TAKING WALKS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?
WHOOSH
ぱっ?

IF YOU HADN'T LOCKED YOURSELF UP,
I WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN TO TAKE THIS TEST EITHER
SO I CAN'T TALK.
GUNJOU...
GROWL
GUNJOU
HEY! DON'T LAUGH!!
SHAKE SHAKE
I HAVE SOME BREAD.
MUNCH
MUNCH
WHY DID YOU LOCK YOURSELF UP?
THAT REMINDS ME, I NEVER DID ASK

FOR AS LONG AS I REMEMBER I'VE NEVER BEEN GOOD AT TALKING WITH PEOPLE...
GRAMPS AND GRANNY AND A FEW MAIDS...
...I GREW UP IN A SMALL WORLD.
AND THEN FOUR YEARS AGO
I OVERHEARD SOME MAIDS WHO WERE NEW TO THE CASTLE TALKING...
WHAT A DISMAL PRINCESS SHE IS!
SHE'S SO PLAIN, AND HER FRECKLES ARE UGLY TOO!
GOOD MORNING! YOU LOOK AS PRETTY AS A PICTURE AGAIN TODAY, PRINCESS TSUYUKUSA!
I DON'T WANT TO SERVE A PRINCESS LIKE HER!
BUT THE NEXT DAY, THEY SPOKE TO ME WITH SMILES.

NO.
I FEEL MUCH BETTER WHEN I'M ALONE.
IT WAS A BIG DEAL FOR ME!
A TINY THING LIKE THAT!?
IT WAS JUST GOSSIP!
FOUR YEARS BECAUSE OF THAT!?
I'D NEVER ENCOUNTERED SUCH GOSSIP BEFORE...
I WAS SCARED...
...DON'T YOU EVER WANT SOME-ONE TO TALK WITH?

おたより下さい
46ページは某(?)12の自分を慰めしく思いました。でも楽しく描けました。
おたより先
〒101-0063
東京都千代田区神田淡路町2-2-2
白泉社 花とゆめ編集部
音 久無条

THIS BLUE PAINT IS MADE FROM THE NOCTURNAL YAKUMO VINE
IT EMITS LIGHT AT NIGHT.
IT'S A PICTURE I PAINTED WHILE I WAS AN APPRENTICE.
IT'S YOURS?
THIS IS WHERE IT ENDED UP. HUH.
EH
WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I WAS TAKEN IN BY AN ARTIST AND STUDIED UNDER HIM.
BUT WHEN I WAS TWELVE MY MASTER DISAPPEARED, LEAVING BEHIND A HUGE DEBT.
I WAS COMPLETELY AT A LOSS, SO I USED THE TECHNIQUES I'D LEARNED AND BECAME A FORGER.
A FORGER!?
YOU CAN'T MAKE A LIVING ON UNKNOWN ARTISTS' WORKS, AFTER ALL.

I NEVER HAD ANY TIME OR MONEY TO PAINT ARTWORKS OF MY OWN.
...I'VE

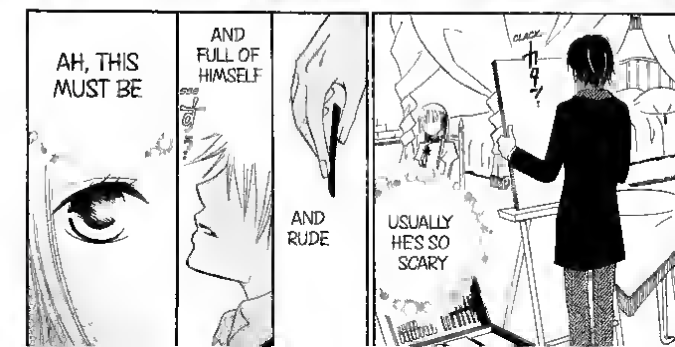
I PAINTED THIS WHEN MY MASTER WAS STILL AROUND.
IT'S AN ORIGINAL.

EVEN
FORGOTTEN HOW.

KNOCK
KNOCK
GOOD MORNING, YOUR HIGHNESS
CLICK
チャ
COME IN
TODAY'S THE DAY I'LL ..

SI...SINCE YOU INSIST,
I'LL DO IT!!
STAND
YOU CAN TELL THE KING, YOU KNOW.
THAT I'M A FORGER.
I...
REALLY LIKE THAT BLUE PAINTING...
SO
I WANT TO.. SEE OTHER WORKS... BY THE PERSON WHO PAINTED IT.
THAT'S
ALL...
NEW

とん…
THANK YOU.


AH, THIS MUST BE
AND FULL OF HIMSELF
AND RUDE
USUALLY HE'S SO SCARY
CLACK.

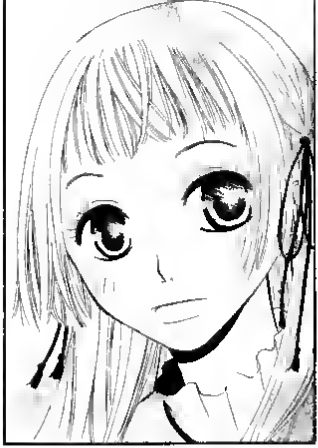
GUNJOU
THE
ARTIST...
FLICK
tap
And
so
I'M SORRY IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
ACCIDENT MY ASS!
YOU PICKING A FIGHT?
SQUINCH
PLUNGE

day after day, they painted together...

HEY GUNJOU, WHAT'S THIS COLOURED POWDER?

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE HEARD HER HIGHNESS'S LAUGH

OH, THAT'S PIGMENT.
PIG-MENT?
IT'S THE STUFF PAINT'S MADE OUT OF.
I CARRY IT MAINLY FOR JAPANESE-STYLE PAINTINGS
AND IF YOU MIX IT WITH GUM ARABIC IT BECOMES WATERCOLOUR
IF YOU MIX IT WITH OIL IT BECOMES OIL PAINT.
DON'T OPEN THAT ONE EMERALD GREEN HAS ARSENIC IN IT.
POISON IN PAINT!?
IT'S NOT UNUSUAL
WOW
THAT'S SO INTERESTING!
WILL YOU TEACH ME ABOUT PAINTING TOO?
SEEMS LIKE IT'D BE QUITE A CHALLENGING TASK.



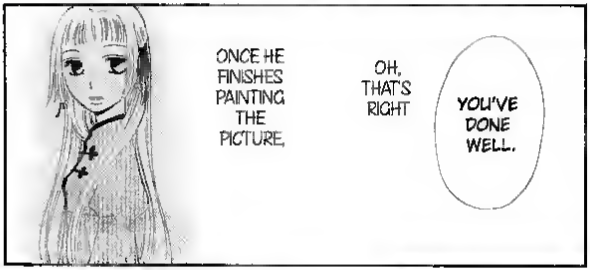
OH GUNJOU
MEANIE!!
PLUNGE
ぼっ
ガ

EH?
YOU'RE ALMOST FINISHED?
YEAH.

But all things must come to an end

I WISH LIFE COULD GO ON LIKE THIS FOREVER...

I'LL FINISH IT JUST IN TIME FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY.
THEN YOU WON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO SEE ME ANYMORE.


ONCE HE FINISHES PAINTING THE PICTURE,
OH, THAT'S RIGHT
YOU'VE DONE WELL.

IT DOESN'T MATTER
HE'S SCARY AND RUDE
GUNJOU WON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO COME TO THE TOWER ANYMORE

I'LL BE COMPLETELY FINE
EVEN IF
I NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, YOUR HIGHNESS.
YOU FINISHED IT?
YES, AT DAWN.

I'M NOT GOING TO THE COMING OF AGE CEREMONY!
PLUNGE
I WANT TO SEE IT
CLICK
THAT I WAS ABLE TO PAINT AN ARTWORK OF MY OWN AGAIN
IT'S THANKS TO YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS,
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE IT AT THE CEREMONY
SORRY, IT WAS LAST MINUTE SO I ALREADY HANDED IT OVER
THANK YOU.
WHEN YOU'RE ALONE
RUSTLE
I WISHED I COULD STAY LOCKED UP LIKE THIS FOREVER
YOU CAN LIVE A PEACEFUL LIFE
WHEN YOU'RE ALONE, YOU DON'T GET HURT
パチパチ

BUT
AT SOME POINT
I STARTED TO DO NOTHING BUT GAZE OUT THE WINDOW

I GOT SCARED AND CLAMMED UP

I KEPT RUNNING AWAY, PRETENDING THAT I HADN'T NOTICED
BUT
OH
TO BE WITH YOU MORE
I WANT
I WANT TO SEE EVERYONE AGAIN
MORE AND MORE
I WANT
TO TALK WITH YOU

GUN-JOU!
IF YOU'RE GONNA COME DOWN, HURRY UP!

I WONDER IF I'LL BE ABLE TO WALK
MEANIE!
LIKE YOU DO
IF I'LL BE ABLE TO
TSUYU-KUSA.

TAKE
A STEP
FORWARD
WITH
MY OWN
FEET

WHO THE HELL
TOLD YOU TO JUMP DOWN!? YOU ROYAL MORON!!!
HE'S RIGHT! THANK HEAVENS THERE WERE TREES AND GUNJOU-DONO BELOW!
...
I'M SORRY.

GR/MPS... THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.
THANK YOU TOO, GUNJOU.
THANKS TO YOU, I WAS ABLE TO COME DOWN FROM THE TOWER
TOMMY BY THE BY?
CLOMP
HMPH.
BLUSH
THERE! I SAID IT!
MAYBE I MADE A MISTAKE.
SWISH
EH?

I HAD THE REAL YOU ALL TO MYSELF...
AFTER ALL,

Once upon a time,
GO APOLOGISE TO EVERYONE FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS

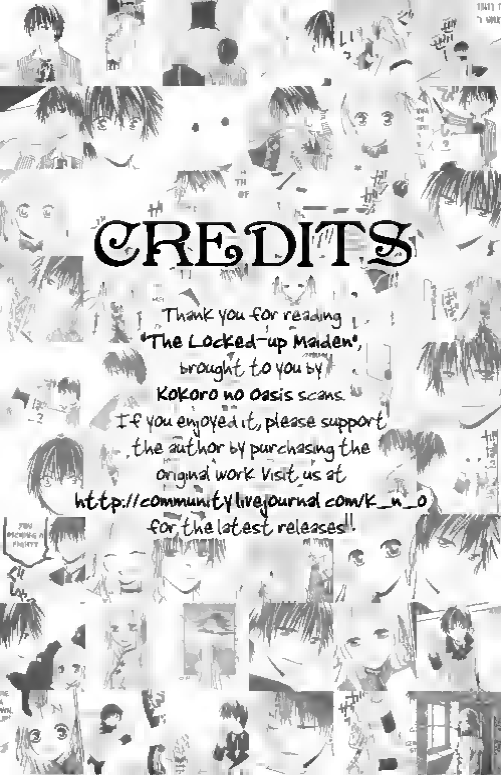
PLUNGE
ぽっ

GEEZ! COME ON, THE CEREMONY'S STARTING!

WHAT PATH WILL THESE TWO WALK NOW?

THAT'S ANOTHER STORY...

END



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